

# Calvary News Update – December 2019

Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church • 341 Hamline Avenue South, St. Paul, MN 55105 • (651) 698-6138  
Rev. Joe Marsh • A Member of The American Association of Lutheran Churches (TAALC) • [www.calvarystpaul.org](http://www.calvarystpaul.org)

## Prayer & Bible Reading

Prayer and Bible reading are the most common daily activities of a Christian. If that's true then why do we so often avoid doing either of them? The simple answer of course is our sinful nature. Our sinful nature can rationalize all of the wrong that we do daily and call it "good." Rationalizations like, "I don't have time, I'm just too important and too busy for God." Really? Maybe a more honest answer would be, "I find prayer kind of dull and don't often see anything happen when I do pray." As for reading the Bible, "It's too outdated, too hard to understand, and makes me feel too guilty."

Most of the time our focus in life is on the wrong thing and many of our sentences spoken out loud or to our self begin with the word "I." Even our prayers have too many "I's" in them. Prayer is more about focusing on God and listening to Him. The Psalms are a great resource for prayer. Instead of praying a bunch of "I prayers" try simply reading a Psalm and praying it (out loud isn't a bad idea). Psalm 23 is one many of us know by heart and can be used as a daily prayer. Of course, the prayer that Jesus taught the disciples is a good one also as long as we don't just mouth the words and forget to concentrate on what we are praying.

When I first arrived at Calvary a few years ago, I challenged you to read one chapter of the Bible a day and pray for five minutes daily. I'm just positive you remember that challenge. One person took up the challenge and has read through the Bible twice since then.

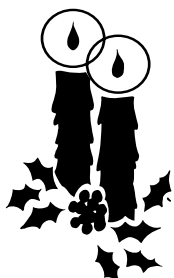
Many people find that writing in a journal is helpful. You can write out your prayers if you wish or just write out your thoughts as you pray and read God's Word. Studies have shown that people who "journal" are more in touch with themselves and their life and wind up being happier by writing down their thoughts. You don't have to have a little book to write in, in fact you don't even have to keep what you wrote down – just wad it up and throw it away when you are finished if you are afraid someone might read it. However, it is instructive and helpful to go back a week, a month, a year and see how things didn't turn out the way you thought they might. Usually when you go back you realize that you stewed and worried about nothing – which might help you trust the Lord with your problems this week.

As for reading a chapter a day out of the Bible, there are hundreds of Bible reading plans you can find online. Or you might just write in your Bible the date you read a particular chapter or book. You can alternate between reading an Old Testament chapter one day and a New Testament chapter the next day. If you are really adventurous you might do both in one day!

What do you have to lose by praying for five minutes a day and reading one chapter of the Bible? You may have to cut your newspaper reading or television time by ten minutes but that may not be all bad, either.

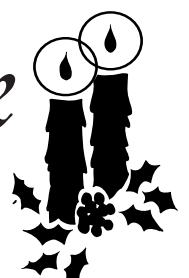
Blessings on your challenge.

– Pastor Joe



## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

4:00 pm • Tuesday, December 24



# Welcome, New Members!



We received three new members on November 10: Barb Ruuska, Linda Lamski, and John Lamski.

**Right this way...  
Usher Training  
(and Review)  
after worship  
December 8**



**Prayer Request Forms:** The ushers have forms you can use to make a prayer request *prior* to the beginning of Sunday worship. If you like, request some forms to take home with you to prepare for the next week. You may e-mail prayer requests to [office@calvarystpaul.org](mailto:office@calvarystpaul.org) during the week.

**Enlarged copies of the Sunday scripture readings are available** from the ushers. Please ask an usher if you would like an easier-to-read version of the week's Bible verses.



## Let Us Pray for One Another:










Please pray each day for the following people of Calvary who have special needs: Fred Hall, Sandy Hall, Orlando Hash, Sally Kahn, Jack Lightfoot, Chris Steiner-Lightfoot, Bill White and Kay Witt. Please pray for Pastor Joe Marsh, for God's powerful guidance. Also please pray for other family and friends: Pastor Tom & Mary Aadland, Debbie & John Amacher, Marcie Ann Coville, Dan & Dawn Hall, Pastor Jay Eberth, Scott McClure, Rita Schenk, Dawn Stewart. If you know one or more people on the "other family and friends" prayer list in this newsletter, and you think that their names should continue on the list, please let the church office know not later than Dec. 18 so that those names will not be removed from the list.



**What's Going On?  
Newsletter  
Submissions to  
church office by Dec. 18.  
[office@calvarystpaul.org](mailto:office@calvarystpaul.org)  
or 651-698-6138**

**Sunday Morning Fellowship Serving**  
 December 2019  
 Mary Jo Marsh  
 Judie White

# DECEMBER 2019

<p><b>1</b> 9:00 am Adult Bible Class                  10:00 am Worship Service                  Choir Songs                  11:00 am Coffee &amp; Fellowship  <b>ADVENT DECORATING</b>                  1:00 pm Karen CRC Worship                  Ushers: Barb Ruuska /                  Reader: Bob Fett</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b>  8:30 am Prayer Meeting</p>	<p><b>5</b> <b>NO Quilting</b>                  Recovery Meeting Noon-1:00 pm                  AA Meeting - 7 pm</p>	<p><b>6</b> Recovery Group 7:00 pm</p>	<p><b>7</b> Karen CRC 6-8pm</p>
<p><b>8</b> <i>Anna Downing</i>                  9:00 am Adult Bible Class                  10:00 am Worship Service                  11:00 am Coffee &amp; Fellowship  <b>USHER TRAINING</b>                  1:00 pm Karen CRC Worship                  Ushers: Karol Holmquist / Sally Kahn                  Reader: Betty Anfinson</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b>  8:30 am Prayer Meeting</p>	<p><b>12</b> Recovery Meeting Noon-1:00 pm                  AA Meeting - 7 pm</p>	<p><b>13</b> Recovery Group 7:00 pm</p>	<p><b>14</b> Karen CRC 6-8pm</p>
<p><b>15</b> <i>Chris Steiner-Lightfoot</i>                  9:00 am Adult Bible Class                  10:00 am Worship Service                  11:00 am <b>CHRISTMAS TEA</b>                  Choir Practice                  1:00 pm Karen CRC Worship                  Ushers: Gretchen &amp; Bob Fett                  Reader: Bob Witt</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b>  8:30 am Prayer Meeting   <b>Newsletter submissions due</b>                  651-698-6138 • office@calvarystpaul.org</p>	<p><b>19</b> Recovery Meeting Noon-1:00 pm   <b>NO Quilting</b>                  AA Meeting 7 pm</p>	<p><b>20</b> Recovery Group 7:00 pm</p>	<p><b>21</b> Karen CRC 6-8pm</p>
<p><b>22</b> 9:00 am Adult Bible Class                  10:00 am Worship Service                  11:00 am Coffee &amp; Fellowship                  Choir Practice                  1:00 pm Karen CRC Worship                  Ushers: Barb Ruuska / Matt Taylor                  Reader: April Taylor</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b>  4:00 pm                  Christmas Eve                  Candlelight Service</p>	<p><b>25</b> </p>	<p><b>26</b> Recovery Meeting Noon-1:00 pm                  AA Meeting - 7 pm</p>	<p><b>27</b> <i>Mary Jo Marsh</i>                  Recovery Group 7:00 pm</p>	<p><b>28</b> Karen CRC 6-8pm</p>
<p><b>29</b>                   9:00 am Adult Bible Class                  10:00 am Communion Service                  11:00 am Coffee &amp; Fellowship                  1:00 pm Karen CRC Worship                  Ushers: Charlene &amp; Mark Carter                  Reader: Sandy Hall</p>	<p><b>30</b> </p>	<p><b>31</b> New Year's Eve</p>	<p><b>(Jan.) 1</b>   <b>2020!</b>                  Happy New Year!</p>	<p><b>2</b> Recovery Meeting Noon-1:00 pm                  AA Meeting - 7 pm</p>	<p><b>3</b> Recovery Group 7:00 pm</p>	<p><b>4</b> Karen CRC 6-8pm</p>

Address Service Requested  
Time Dated Material - Please Deliver Promptly

Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church  
341 Hamline Avenue South  
St. Paul, MN 55105  
(651)698-6138




**Christmas Tea**  
 Sunday, December 15  
 ~ Following Worship Service ~



**EVERYONE is INVITED!**  
*Christmas Season Fellowship and Fun for All!*

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*Bring your fancy hats and teacups. Each table will be decorated by volunteer individuals. Let Mary Gardner know if you would like to decorate a table.*

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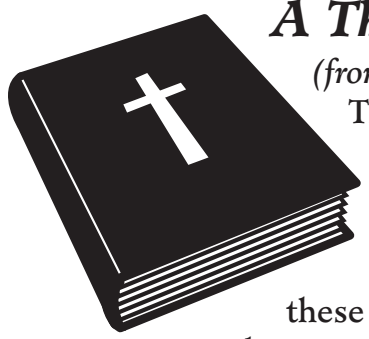
**Bring a Friend!**



**Advent Decorating**  
 SUNDAY, Dec. 1  
 After Worship

*Sumptuous treats included!*

Please have year-end monetary contributions in by Dec. 29 to be credited for the 2019 tax year.



**A Thank You from the Gideons**

*(from Ted Ellingson of the Gideons)*

Thank you, Calvary, for your generosity! Thank you for allowing Dale Brintnall and myself to be a part of your service yesterday. We are thankful for your continuous support of the Gideons. I always enjoy visiting your very friendly and Biblically-based church. Your congregation certainly showed love with the very generous offering of \$190.00. Be assured that these funds will be used to provide scriptures to other countries, to people that do not have a copy of God's word.